

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A suture screw comprising:

a sleeve having a threaded outer surface and a longitudinal bore; and

a pin having a tip and a shaft extending proximally from the tip, the shaft having at least one transverse bore extending from a first side of the shaft to a second side of the shaft, wherein the shaft is positioned within the longitudinal bore of the sleeve.

Claim 2 (original): The suture screws recited in Claim 1 wherein the pin has channels in the first and second sides extending from the transverse bore along the first and second sides to a proximal end of the shaft.

Claim 3 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 2 wherein the sleeve has channels formed on an inner surface of the longitudinal bore and extend in complimentary fashion with the channels in the shaft of the pin.

Claim 4 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 3 wherein the shaft has a hexagonal cross-section and the longitudinal bore of the sleeve has a hexagonal cross-section to receive the shaft such that the shaft cannot rotate within the sleeve.

Claim 5 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 1, wherein the threads of the sleeve are interrupted at the distal end of sleeve.

Claim 6 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 5 wherein the tip of the pin has threads formed in an outer surface thereof.

Claim 7 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 6, wherein the threads of the tip

of the pin are interrupted.

Claim 8 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 1, wherein the tip of the pin has a smooth conical surface.

Claim 9 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 3 further comprising a length of suture having a diameter less than that of the transverse bore and positioned through to the transverse bore and within channels of the shaft and the channels of the sleeve such that the suture is freely slidable therethrough.

Claim 10 (amended): A suture screw for receipt of a length of suture to secure tissue to bone comprising:

~~an~~ a non-expandable outer sleeve having a longitudinal bore there through, the longitudinal bore having a predetermined cross-sectional shape; and

A1
Cont
a pin having a distal tip and a shaft extending proximally from the tip and has a cross-sectional shape similar to the cross-sectional shape of the throughbore such that when the shaft is inserted into the throughbore, there is a minimal rotation between the pin and the sleeve.

Claim 11 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 10, wherein the pin includes a transverse bore formed through the shaft for receipt of a length of suture.

Claim 12 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 11, wherein an inner surface of the throughbore and an outer surface of the shaft are formed with complimentary longitudinal channels extending from the throughbore proximally toward proximal ends of the pin and the sleeve.

Claim 13 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 10, wherein an outer surface of the sleeve is threaded.

Appl. No. 10/033,951
Amdt. Dated: December 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2003

Claim 14 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 10, wherein a portion of the outer surface of the tip is smooth and conical.

Claim 15 (original): The suture screw as recited in Claim 10, wherein a portion of the outer surface of the tip is smooth and conical.

Claim 16 (amended): A method of anchoring tissue to bone comprising:
providing a two part suture screw having a threaded outer sleeve and a longitudinal bore and a pin, having a distal insertion tip and a proximal shaft having a transverse bore, attached to the sleeve such that the shaft is positionable within the longitudinal bore and at least one length of suture extending through the transverse bore and freely slidable therein;

threading the suture screw in ~~bore~~ bone;

attaching one end of the suture to tissue;

AI
Cont
tensioning the suture to draw the tissue adjacent the bone; and tying the suture to secure the tissue to bone.

Claim 17 (original): The method as recited in Claim 16 further including the step of drilling a pilot hole in the bone.
